



Global Compact
LEAD



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
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Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Global Compact LEAD CEO Meeting Davos, 23 January 2014, 20.00 – 21.45

Background Note

The two sets of intergovernmental negotiations currently running in parallel with a view to define a *Post-2015 Development Agenda* and deliver an *international climate change agreement* are both entering a critical phase. The progress made within these two United Nations-led processes by September and December 2015 is likely to define global sustainability aspirations and actions for decades to come.

Global Compact LEAD companies have a unique opportunity to help shape a post-2015 development agenda, providing an ambitious set of sustainable development goals and fully incorporating corporate sustainability as a transformative force. An important milestone ahead is the conclusion of the deliberations of the Intergovernmental Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals by August 2014.

Similarly, Global Compact LEAD and Caring for Climate companies can contribute significantly to a successful conclusion of the intergovernmental climate change negotiations. Notably, the UN Secretary General's Climate Change Summit in September 2014 is designed to generate political momentum for an ambitious global agreement on climate change, and strong engagement by corporate leaders will be central to these efforts.

Meeting objectives

The Global Compact LEAD CEO Dinner in Davos on 23 January is designed to provide overall direction for renewed efforts within Global Compact LEAD and Caring for Climate to elevate the voice of responsible business vis-à-vis the government negotiations currently taking place. Specifically the meeting will seek to define what success looks like for the post-2015 development agenda and the international climate change negotiations, and identify actions that enlightened business leaders over the next year and a half can take to help mobilize the political will necessary to successfully conclude the two intergovernmental processes.

Discussion questions

The two key questions for discussion during the LEAD CEO Dinner are:

1. From the perspective of corporate sustainability leaders, what does success look like for the post-2015 development agenda and the global climate change negotiations?

In preparation for this discussion, executives are encouraged to draw on the preliminary outcomes of Global Compact LEAD's activities tied to the post-2015 development agenda. Specifically, LEAD companies have agreed on the need for a very ambitious set of global sustainable development goals, covering all aspects of sustainable development and thus providing aspiration for both developed and less developed countries. In addition, LEAD has helped shape the Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture launched by the UN Secretary General, providing a framework for how to most importantly engage global businesses as a positive force for sustainable development. Please see Annex I for additional details on LEAD's suggestions for sustainable development goals and the Architecture.

Similarly, executives are encouraged to draw on the Caring for Climate Leadership Statement and its commitment areas to identify the most effective role and contribution businesses can play at the global level in support of a new, universal climate agreement in 2015. A core policy imperative articulated in this business leadership statement is a specific call for a stable price on carbon – reiterated as a fundamental part of a comprehensive global policy framework. A robust carbon price can be a catalytic mechanism to achieve the global scale and transformation needed to accelerate corporate climate action, and furthermore immediately help drive domestic and global investment toward a low-carbon, high-resilient economic growth path. Please see the Caring for Climate Statement in Annex II.

2. How can Global Compact LEAD and Caring for Climate companies and CEOs most effectively provide effective advocacy vis-à-vis governments and other decision-makers?

In preparation for this discussion, executives are encouraged to consider specifically what they would be willing and able to do in terms of responsible policy engagement and advocacy, helping to mobilize the political will necessary to secure the adoption of ambitious international agreements on sustainable development and climate change.

Likewise, executives are encouraged to provide recommendations for how effective advocacy campaigns can be organized within LEAD and Caring for Climate and to identify the type of support and recognition that the UN Global Compact Office should provide for companies to effectively engage with governments and other decision-makers.

Discussion format and flow

By request of the UN Secretary General, the dinner meeting will be conducted in an informal and interactive format allowing all participants to contribute to the discussion. Formal presentations will thus be limited to opening remarks by the Secretary-General and the co-hosts.

The meeting will be moderated by Jane Nelson, Senior Fellow and Director of Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School.

Opportunities for remarks during the plenary discussion

For the plenary discussions, participants are asked to indicate their interest in making an intervention by standing their name-plate on its side. The moderator will then call on participants, one at a time, as many as time will permit.

In order to afford as many people as possible the opportunity to speak during the dinner, we kindly ask participants to ensure that their remarks do not go over 2 minutes.

Finally, in order to facilitate an interactive and meaningful exchange, we encourage unscripted remarks to the extent possible. We also strongly encourage that participants focus on the topic for discussion and that they respond to and build on the input of others.

Segment 1: 20.15 – 20.40

Following the UN Secretary General's opening remarks, the moderator will open the first round of plenary discussion, inviting executives to share their expectations and hopes for the outcome of the two intergovernmental processes (discussion question 1).

Segment 2: 20.40 – 21.05

During the main course of the dinner, participants engage in informal discussions at their roundtables, focusing on either one or both the two discussions questions above.

Segment 3: 21.05 – 21.45

Following the main course, the moderator will open the second round of plenary discussion focusing primarily on the role of business leaders as policy advocates and identifying the need for support and recognition by the Global Compact (discussion question 2).

In conclusion, the UN Secretary General will deliver short remarks reflecting on the preceding discussion, followed by closing remarks by Robert Greenhill, Managing Director, World Economic Forum.

Annex I: Summary of LEAD's contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda to date

Global Compact LEAD companies played a central role in shaping the Global Compact's input to the UN Secretary-General and member-states negotiating the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Defining an ambitious global development agenda with specific and time-bound targets

An important first conclusion emerging from both the LEAD discussions and consultations with wider set of Global Compact participants is that companies are energized by the prospect of a newly articulated set of world priorities including clear goals and targets.

Given the strong support for the concept of sustainable development goals, LEAD companies have put forward an ambitious proposal for governments on how forthcoming sustainable development goals might look. The resulting ten priority issues can be organized into four overarching areas: Inclusive Growth; Human Needs and Capacities; The Resource Triad; and Enabling Environment.



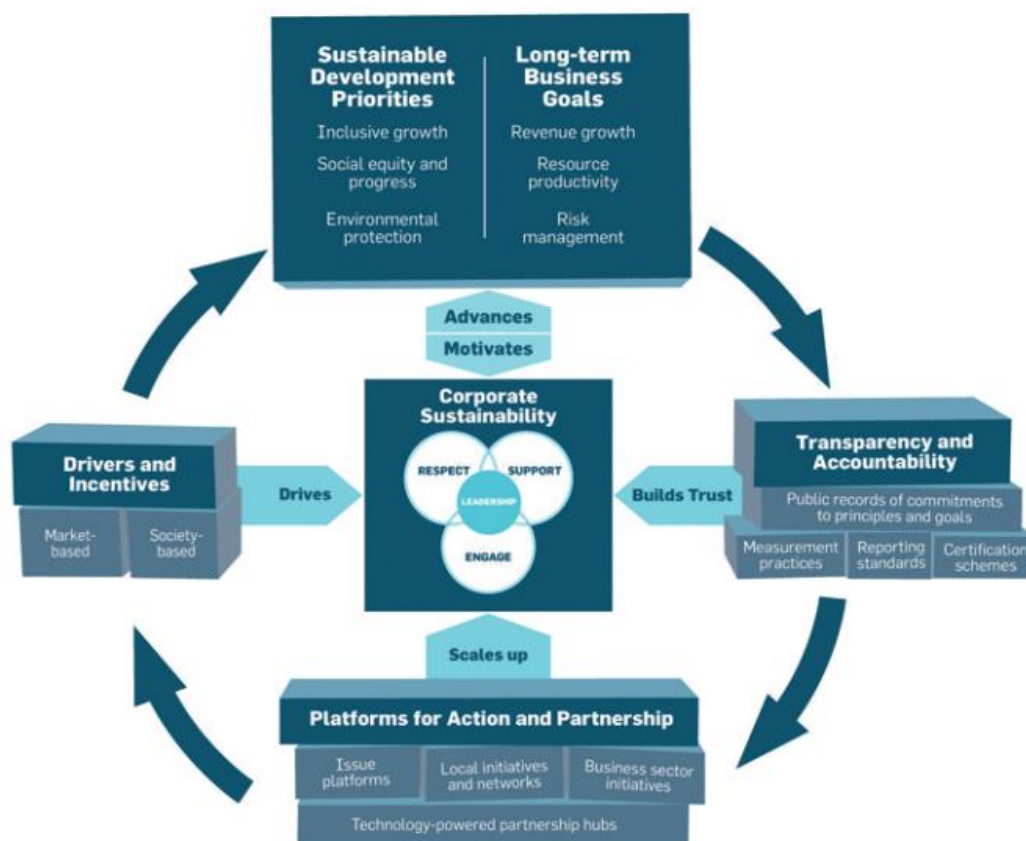
As further input, LEAD companies agreed on additional suggestions for criteria that could guide the establishment of sustainability goals and targets:

- Global in scope, and not pre-determining a North-South duality;
- Taking into account differences in the level of development of different countries or regions, allowing for achievability as well as ambition;
- Limited in number and clear in theme and concept;
- Chosen with consideration of both intrinsic value and a multiplier effect;
- Balance between the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development;
- "SMART" targets: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound. If not stated in quantitative terms, targets should be amenable to measurement on progress through statistical indicators; and
- Targets set for a 15-year period beginning in 2015, with check points every five years, and benchmarked to 2010.

Promoting corporate sustainability as a transformative force for sustainable development

The adoption of a post-2015 development agenda provides a historic opportunity for the international community to mobilize more companies to more effectively advance global priorities. This requires a solid set of implementation mechanisms that fully recognizes the central role that global business must play in realizing any new set of sustainable development goals.

The Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture, illustrated below, outlines the main building blocks necessary to scale up and enhance business action and partnership that advance sustainable development, creating value for both business and society. Each of these building blocks must be further strengthened and connected, if they are to help take corporate sustainability to scale and turn business into a truly transformative force in the Post-2015 era. Individual companies, Governments, investors, and civil society all have a role to play in scaling up business action, and should be able to identify those areas in which they need to do more.



Please visit the UN Global Compact's web site or click directly on the following links to view the full text of ["Architects of a Better World: Building the Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture"](#) and the [UN Global Compact and LEAD's submission to the UN Secretary General on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#).

Annex II: The Caring for Climate Statement

Caring for Climate



"CARING FOR CLIMATE: THE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP PLATFORM"

A Statement by the Business Leaders of the Caring for Climate Initiative

Since business leaders from around the world first came together to issue this statement in 2007, the magnitude and urgency of the climate challenge has become more apparent. Climate change is a momentous threat to development, to peace and security, and to market stability. While the pace of action by governments, businesses and society at large has increased, our efforts, individually and collectively, must be accelerated further if the threat of catastrophic climate change is to be removed effectively. It is with this in mind that we renew our call to the business community to make a lasting commitment to climate action now.

WE, THE BUSINESS LEADERS OF CARING FOR CLIMATE:

RECOGNIZE THAT:

1. Climate Change is an issue requiring urgent and extensive action on the part of governments, business and citizens if the risk of serious damage to global prosperity, sustainable development and security is to be avoided.
2. Climate change poses both risks and opportunities to businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions of the world. It is in the best interest of the business community, as well as responsible behavior, to take an active and leading role in deploying low-carbon technologies, increasing energy efficiency, reducing carbon emissions and in assisting society to adapt to those changes in the climate which are now unavoidable.

COMMIT TO:

3. Taking further practical actions to improve continuously the efficiency of energy usage and to reduce the carbon footprint of our products, services and processes, to set voluntary targets for doing so, and to report publicly and annually on the achievement of those targets in our Communication on Progress-Climate.
4. Building significant capacity within our organizations to understand fully the implications of climate change for our business and to develop a coherent business strategy for minimizing risks and identifying opportunities.
5. Engaging more actively with our own national governments, inter-governmental organizations and civil society to develop policies and measures to provide an enabling framework for business to contribute effectively to building a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy.
6. Continuing to work collaboratively with other enterprises both nationally and sectorally, and along our value-chains, to set standards and take joint initiatives aimed at reducing climate risks, assisting with adaptation to climate change and enhancing climate-related opportunities.
7. Becoming an active business champion for rapid and extensive climate action, working with our peers, employees, customers, investors and the broader public.

EXPECT FROM GOVERNMENTS:

8. The urgent creation, in close consultation with the business community and civil society, of comprehensive, long-term and effective legislative and fiscal frameworks designed to make markets work for the climate, in particular policies and mechanisms intended to create a stable price for carbon.
9. Recognition that building effective public-private partnerships to respond to the climate challenge will require major public investments to catalyze and support business and civil society led initiatives, especially in relation to research, development, deployment and transfer of low-carbon energy technologies and the construction of a low-carbon infrastructure.
10. Vigorous international cooperation aimed at providing a robust and innovative global policy framework within which private investments in building a low-carbon economy can be made, as well as providing financial and other support to assist those countries that require help to realize their own climate mitigation and adaptation targets while achieving poverty alleviation, energy security and natural resource management.

AND WILL:

11. Work collaboratively on joint initiatives between public and private sectors and through them achieve a comprehensive understanding of how both public and private sectors can best play a pro-active and leading role in meeting the climate challenge in an effective way.
12. Invite the UN Global Compact to promote the public disclosure of actions taken by the signatories to this Statement and, in cooperation with UN Environment Programme and the secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change communicate on this on a regular basis.